

Date: 20 September 2015
Opposition: Norwich City
Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
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20 September
2015

THE TIMES

Rodgers running out of sympathy after another flat display

Liverpool 1 Ings 48
Norwich City Martin 61
Referee: A Taylor. Att: 44,072

The last time they were in the Barclays Premier League it was Liverpool, arguably more than any other opponent, who highlighted the weaknesses that condemned Norwich City to a year in the Sky Bet Championship. On their return to Anfield, they discovered that they no longer have anything to fear from Brendan Rodgers's side. Liverpool's rapid descent from title challengers to also-rans has another yardstick, one that leaves their manager facing the kind of pressure that few in his profession survive. Rodgers was entitled to argue that Liverpool deserved more from this fixture than Norwich allowed them and his position was supported by Alex Neil, the Norwich manager, who agreed that John Ruddy, his goalkeeper, had been the game's outstanding performer.

But this was the 18th time in their past 20 matches that Liverpool have failed to score more than one goal; their problems run deep and show no signs of being solved. By the final whistle, patience had evaporated and Liverpool left the field with the sound of booing from their supporters accompanying their retreat to the dressing room. Rodgers had asked the fans to stick with his ailing team beforehand, using his programme notes to appeal to those who, should they turn on him, have the power to seal his fate. The supporters delivered up until the very end of the game, their patience admirable given the paucity of quality that they were being served with, but it is the players on the pitch rather than those in the stands who should be Rodgers's greatest concern.

Five games without a win leaves Liverpool in the bottom half of the table. Even in the opening weeks of the season, when a single point separates sixth from 13th, that is not a good place for Rodgers to be in.

Events continue to conspire against him, the broken foot suffered by Jordan Henderson, the captain, being the latest harsh blow. In the ruthless world occupied by football's top clubs, though, such mitigation counts for little, particularly at Liverpool, where the expectation remains that a top four-place has to be pursued regardless of misfortune. Based on recent form, it is hard to see how that objective can be achieved. The view that Liverpool are an average team is going to take some shifting.

Norwich would be better placed than most to highlight what has gone wrong for Liverpool. In their past five matches against the Merseyside club, they conceded 21 goals but none of the players who inflicted such damage are still at Anfield. Luis Suarez, scorer of 12 of those goals, has left a hole that neither transfer committee nor manager has been able to fill. Rodgers had hoped that Daniel Sturridge could at least make the void less noticeable, but in his first appearance since April, the inevitable rustiness ensured that the forward was unable to do so. In the first half especially, Liverpool's attacking threat was negligible. After James Milner's unsuccessful attempt to win a penalty in the second minute, it took another half an hour before Ruddy made his first save, a fairly comfortable stop from Sturridge, who had been picked out by Lucas Leiva. Norwich were also struggling to create but having been set up to challenge Liverpool to break them down, going in goalless at the interval ensured that they were the more content of the two teams.

The dynamic shifted in Liverpool's favour within three minutes of the second half, when Danny Ings, on as a substitute for Christian Benteke, who had suffered a hamstring strain -- raced on to Alberto Moreno's through ball and beat Ruddy with a low shot to score his first goal for his new club.

"Danny was outstanding," Rodgers said. "His ability running in behind was there to see." It also contrasted with the movement of Benteke, which had again been functional rather than inspired.

What transpired next provided a stark lesson in what happens when clubs become overly dependent on average players. For all his improvement in the second half of last season, Simon Mignolet remains an obvious weak link and his pitiful attempt to punch Robbie Brady's corner clear succeeded only in presenting the ball to Russell Martin. It was the second gift that the Norwich captain had received in the space of 12 hours, after the birth of his son that morning, and he took full advantage, hooking a shot over the outstretched Mignolet.

"We lost our concentration," Rodgers said before insisting that responsibility for the goal did not belong to his goalkeeper alone. Mignolet made amends shortly after, up to a point, after producing a sharp save to deny Matt Jarvis from close range before Sturridge's first run-out since April came to an end after 63 minutes. Philippe Coutinho could have alleviated the pressure on his manager after latching on to a through ball from Emre Can, but he hesitated, contemplating whether to pass to Ings, and by the time he opted to shoot, Ruddy was in position to make a superb save. With that wasted opportunity, Liverpool's chance to win for the first time in a month had evaporated.

"I am disappointed and frustrated with the result but I thought in the second half there were more signs of fluency and creativity," Rodgers said. "We created enough chances to win the game. There were a lot more positives."

Despite accentuating the positives from what was a disappointing draw, Rodgers is sufficiently worldly wise to know that hard luck stories count for little at present. "You get no sympathy," he admitted. The problem is that if Liverpool retain their ambitions, the scope for his employers to offer any is likely to be diminishing.

the **guardian**

Liverpool let lead slip to Norwich as Martin cancels Danny Ings' opener
Russell Martin had driven through the night to attend the birth of his son in Norfolk, caught a plane back to Merseyside with Delia Smith and other Norwich City directors shortly before kick-off and then, after a sleepless 24 hours, scored to give Alex Neil's team a merited point at Anfield. Yet it was Liverpool who laboured and their supporters who were taken to the point of exhaustion. Half-hearted boos rang from the Kop on the final whistle after Brendan Rodgers' desperate wait for a victory extended to a fifth game. Familiar failings undermined a display that was an improvement on recent offerings, a low benchmark admittedly. Weak goalkeeping from Simon Mignolet and a lack of concentration at a set piece enabled the Norwich captain to equalise Danny Ings' first goal for his new club, while poor finishing and fine goalkeeping prevented Liverpool adding a second for the 18th time in their past 20 outings. Anfield's patience is being stretched.

Ings' tireless, aggressive contribution as a second-half substitute was the main plus for Rodgers but, despite changing personnel and formation, and the return of Daniel Sturridge, his wait for the return of Liverpool's identity goes on. Norwich were composed, well-drilled and, though indebted to John Ruddy on occasions, well worth their point on the road.

"We created enough chances to win the game," the Liverpool manager lamented. "That disappoints but the most disappointing factor was the goal."

"That was their first corner. We lost concentration and Russell Martin hooks it in. That shouldn't happen but there were a lot more positives from the game. Today was a step forward for us in terms of the creativity and hopefully progress will come from that."

Anfield was flat, the opening half-hour especially so, but it would have been much worse for Rodgers had the referee, Anthony Taylor, applied the strict letter of the law and dismissed James Milner after four minutes.

Liverpool's captain in the absence of the injured Jordan Henderson received an early booking for a foul on Cameron Jerome and then tumbled theatrically inside the Norwich area having evaded a challenge from Robbie Brady. Taylor did not fall for Milner's attempt to win a penalty nor did he book the midfielder for a dive that prompted a furious response from Brady. The polite interpretation was that Taylor adjudged Brady's tackle to have affected Milner's balance and gave the England international the benefit of the doubt. Or he just avoided making a huge call. Neil said: "If you are going by the letter of the law, then it may have been the case [for a second yellow card] but I would be really disappointed if my player had been sent off for that. It would have been harsh."

Sturridge's first start since 8 April and the overdue selection of Mamadou Sakho in place of Dejan Lovren enthused the home crowd more than Liverpool's first-half display. Despite his touch being inevitably rusty after so long out, Sturridge's pace and movement brought more intent to Liverpool's game, although Philippe Coutinho was often strangely overlooked in the No10 role. Sakho followed his performance in Bordeaux with another accomplished outing as Norwich enjoyed sustained spells in the final third without seriously testing Mignolet until their equaliser.

Liverpool were slow in possession until the introduction of Ings for Christian Benteke, nursing a tight hamstring, sparked some urgency. Ings' running and alertness suited the home side's approach better than their £32.5m summer signing from Aston Villa and, within three minutes of entering the fray, the former Burnley forward had his first Liverpool goal.

Martin played his team into trouble with a careless pass to Alberto Moreno, who swept a first-time ball over the top. Ings had read the Spaniard's intentions perfectly; taking the ball on his chest, the 23-year-old ran clear of Sébastien Bassong and rolled a fine finish under the otherwise commanding Ruddy. It should have been the platform that Liverpool craved. Instead they handed Norwich an equaliser when Mignolet made a hash of dealing with a Brady corner and allowed Martin to atone for his earlier error. The Liverpool keeper came for the cross but punched weakly to the visiting defender who lofted a cool shot over the stranded Belgian. Matt Jarvis should have edged Neil's men ahead but shot straight at Mignolet from close range and Coutinho squandered a glorious chance when sent clear by Emre Can. The Brazilian was caught in two minds as Bassong backed off to cover Ings and ultimately he sent a poor shot straight at the Norwich keeper.

Neil said: "I am pleased not just with the result but with the performance too. We were brave, we tried to put our foot on the ball and play out from the back. You need to ride your luck at a place like this and rely on your goalkeeper who made some great saves, but we could have nicked it at the end when Matt Jarvis had his chance. I thought we deserved the draw."

Man of the match John Ruddy (Norwich City)

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TheMail

RODGERS WOE; Mignolet error gifts Norwich leveller to add to Anfield agony

AFTER six games of the Barclays Premier League season, Liverpool remain below two of three promoted teams and lead another by a single point. That perhaps says everything about the mundanity of life at Anfield these days. After the misery of surrender at Old Trafford eight days earlier and with tougher engagements ahead of them, this was a day that required Liverpool to bolster their confidence with some positive football. For a while it looked as though Brendan Rodgers' team might edge home, if not in style then at least in comfort.

Substitute Danny Ings scored his first Liverpool goal early in the second half and the home team looked set to ease away from a Norwich side who had not lacked ambition but had not really troubled them either.

There is nothing certain about the modern Liverpool, though. They remain a rather flighty team and just after the hour they proceeded to gift Norwich a way back into the game when goalkeeper Simon Mignolet flapped at a corner and visiting captain Russell Martin volleyed in.

As Liverpool struggled last season, Mignolet was fundamental to their problems. Capable of impressive reaction saves he made one from Matt Jarvis just after the equaliser the Belgian nevertheless makes too many mistakes. Why Rodgers didn't replace him in the summer is mysterious and it could yet be a decision he regrets. Certainly Mignolet's error cost his team dearly here. They had some chances and Norwich goalkeeper John Ruddy was his team's best player. That doesn't tell the whole story, though.

This is a Liverpool team who lack conviction and indeed direction. With away games at Everton, Tottenham and Chelsea to come next month, things might get worse before they have the opportunity to get better. And yet before kick-off yesterday, there had been good news. A return for Daniel Sturridge, his first football since April 8, allowed Rodgers to have a look at a partnership between him and Christian Benteke for the first time. This, in turn, prompted the Liverpool manager to deploy a 3-4-1-2 formation used to good affect at times last season.

There were some moments of fluency. Spaniard Alberto Moreno was effective as left wing-back and the Brazilian Lucas impressed in the holding midfield role alongside the less influential James Milner.

Ultimately, though, Liverpool still resembled a team searching for their true identity, not sure whether to go long to Benteke or to use the width of the field or indeed the smart football brain of Philippe Coutinho, playing in the 'No 10' position.

Benteke was poor and Sturridge a little rusty. First-half chances fell to Milner, whose shot was blocked by Robbie Brady, and then to Sturridge, set free by Lucas but denied by Ruddy. Milner and Sturridge also appealed for penalties but neither had a case.

It transpired later that Benteke had a tight hamstring. This is why he was taken off at half-time and may explain his unconvincing performance. What is certain is that Liverpool must find a way to get more out of him as this season moves forward.

He was replaced by Ings, and the switch paid off immediately as Moreno took advantage of some poor Norwich passing to send the striker away.

There was still some work to do but Ings is an uncomplicated player and he simply advanced the ball forwards with one touch and rolled it across Ruddy and into the far corner with another. It was a simple finish and Liverpool had the lead.

Up until this point, Norwich had tried to be progressive but had looked limited. Certainly they hadn't created much.

That changed just after the hour, however, when Mignolet contributed a customary mistake. A corner from the right was not his to claim and when a weak punch dropped to Martin, the Norwich defender controlled the ball on the full and lobbed it back into the goal with a touch of quality. Mignolet then saved from Jarvis and Liverpool chased the game.

Coutinho should have scored when clear, and Ings couldn't convert a half-chance. Ings, it must be said, was a real positive for Liverpool here and has the look of a player who will score goals given the right service.

However, too many questions remain unanswered. These remain uncertain times at Anfield.

The Daily Telegraph

Heat still on Rodgers as Liverpool let victory slip

Liverpool 1
Ings 48
Norwich City 1
Martin 61
Att: 44,072

It was the habit of the former Liverpool manager Rafa Benitez to stare into the abyss only to secure the victory that edged him back from the brink. Whenever the hell-fires were raging and a must-win game arrived, his players duly obliged with a safety harness and three points, thus ensuring serenity returned until the next crisis.

It is a habit that Brendan Rodgers needs to learn sooner rather than later after Liverpool's winless run was extended to five games against Norwich City. The failure to secure three points was hardly worthy of pushing him over the precipice, but it still keeps him in a precarious position, seeking a momentum shift.

Rodgers needed a performance and craved a positive result following successive league defeats. This turned into an inconclusive afternoon as he oversaw the former but not the latter. But for a series of wasted chances and the customary defensive error - this time from Simon Mignolet - he would have been in a position to argue the earlyseason hysteria was misplaced.

Not even the much-anticipated reintroduction of Daniel Sturridge following his prolonged injury absence could reignite the goalscoring flair, although Danny Ings's first goal for the club was a highlight of the former Burnley striker's excellent second-half performance.

His opening goal three minutes after the break was cancelled out when Russell Martin cleverly poked home a 61st-minute equaliser. That followed Mignolet's unconvincing attempt to clear Robbie Brady's corner. Martin joined the Norwich squad late following the birth of his son. Most well-wishers oblige with a bouquet of flowers, but Liverpool's goalkeeper evidently had another gift in mind. "Late last night his wife - who was expecting - phoned to say the contractions had started," Alex Neil, the Norwich manager, said. "The baby was delivered at 10am and then he was on the first flight back up to put in a captain's performance."

Had Mignolet not made amends three minutes later to stop Matt Jarvis tapping in a second it would have been even better for the Canaries. Norwich proved that they have not come up to be relegation fodder but Neil admitted they rode their luck thanks to John Ruddy's goalkeeping and poor Liverpoolfinishing.

There was far more to offer encouragement to Rodgers. The introduction of Mamadou Sakho and Emre Can in a back three at the expense of Dejan Lovren added a passing fluency from the defence. Alberto Moreno is well-suited to a left wing-back role, and playing two strikers promised more potency even if the finishing needs work.

"We created enough chances," Rodgers said. "What is most disappointing is the goal. We lost concentration. It should not happen. But there were a lot of positives. Today was a step forward in terms of the creativity."

Sturridge's presence inevitably made a difference, although he took on the role of creator in the early stages, dropping deep in an effort to form an understanding with Christian Benteke. Troubled with a tight hamstring, Benteke had to be replaced by Ings after 45 minutes. Liverpool's threat increased.

James Milner thought he should have had a penalty after three minutes, claiming he'd been tripped by Brady. The midfielder should have done better on 18 minutes, his shot blocked by Brady.

Ruddy denied Sturridge and Nathaniel Clyne was inches wide with a strike from 20 yards asLiverpool showed more purpose.

The improvement yielded its reward on 48 minutes when Moreno sent Ings scurrying beyond the Norwich defence and he clipped past the advancing Ruddy. Liverpool took control and even after the equaliser Ings and Philippe Coutinho missed opportunities. The Brazilian has many assets, but taking advantage of sitters is not among them. The magician seems only to specialise in the spectacular.

There were howls of frustration on the final whistle but that was more a response to what has gone before. Based on the 90 minutes, Rodgers identifying an upturn is fair. The trouble comes when the scope is broadened over the wait for a victory and you're looking at a League Cup tie with Carlisle to offer breathing space. In reality, everyone will reconvene at Anfield for the visit of Aston Villa next weekend with thoughts unchanged.

No wonder Rodgers spends most of the game on the touchline. The heat in the dugout is not receding.

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LIVERPOOL

ECHO

Frustration for Reds despite Danny Ings' first goal
Danny Ings scored his first goal for Liverpool but it was not enough to lift the gloom around Anfield as Norwich fought back for a point.
The former Burnley man had been on the pitch just two minutes as a half-time substitute when he chested down the impressive Alberto Moreno's pass and slotted under John Ruddy in front of the Kop.
Suddenly there was a buzz around Anfield but the Reds were ahead for just 15 minutes as Simon Mignolet's weak punch from a Robbie Brady corner was turned home expertly by Norwich captain Russell Martin with a languid flick of his boot. Coutinho was later denied by Norwich keeper Ruddy after substitute Roberto Firmino put him in on the keeper – he almost had too much time – while Ings almost grabbed a winner when he rounded Ruddy after good work from fellow substitute Adam Lallana.
Mignolet had redeemed himself with a good reaction stop from Matt Jarvis while Alberto Moreno warmed Ruddy's hands at the other end.
It was a result which will only increase the pressure on Brendan Rodgers although he will have been glad to see the return of Daniel Sturridge to the starting line-up for the first time since April. The striker lasted 60 minutes before he was replaced by Adam Lallana.
The Reds started in a 3-4-1-2 formation with Sakho retaining his place from midweek, this time alongside Emre Can and Martin Skrtel.
Lucas Leiva's 200 Premier League start for Liverpool saw him create chances for Sturridge and Coutinho in the first half, although captain James Milner enjoyed the best early chance for the Reds, shooting wide from Moreno's accurate cutback.
Ings appeared at half-time after Benteke suffered a tight hamstring and his direct running offered much hope for his Reds' future.
Lallana shot wide late on while referee Anthony Taylor waved away handball appeals against Steven Whittaker but it was to be another frustrating day at Anfield, with a few boos heard at the final whistle.

Norwich

EveningNews

Captain Russell Martin’s looping finish cancelled out Danny Ings’ early second half strike to set up a frenetic final quarter with John Ruddy superbly denying Philippe Coutinho for the Reds to pick up only a second point in 11 previous league meetings against the five-time European Cup winners. Wes Hoolahan dropped out of the starting line up with Jonny Howson pushed into a more advanced role and Graham Dorrans brought back in alongside Alex Tettey. Steven Whittaker returned after his one-match ban for the ineligible Andre Wisdom against his parent club. Lewis Grabban was also included on the Norwich bench after his recent suspension. Reds’ chief Brendan Rodgers recalled fit-again Daniel Sturridge in for his first action of the new season after recovering from a hip injury in a potent-looking spearhead alongside Coutinho and Christian Benteke.
The former Aston Villa frontman drew an early free kick from Tettey 25 yards out but Robbie Brady headed clear from Alberto Moreno’s dipping cross.
James Milner earned a yellow card in the third minute for a challenge from behind on Cameron Jerome just inside the Reds’ half. But the England international’s tumble under Seb Bassong’s attentions at the other end of the box inside the Norwich penalty area momentarily looked costly, but referee Taylor waved play on. Brady hauled down Nathaniel Clyne to offer the hosts another dangerous set piece opportunity just outside the angle of the Norwich area but Steven Whittaker was shoved at the far post to relieve the pressure.
Dorrans worked a chance 22 yards out in the 10th minute after linking with Nathan Redmond but dragged his shot wide in front of the massed Kop.
Sturridge coaxed a rash challenge from Bassong; John Ruddy was out positively to collect Milner’s free kick. Tettey escaped a fifth caution of the season after clipping Coutinho with referee Taylor opting for a lecture.
Brady produced his second consecutive goal-saving block in two games to foil Milner after Moreno had easily swerved around Whittaker tight to the Norwich byline. Norwich’s growing confidence was underlined in the 28th minute with a flowing crossfield move that included a cheeky Tettey back heel but Brady clubbed over from 20 yards. Liverpool’s attacking threat was sporadic at this stage but Ruddy was concerned enough to dive across his line as Nathaniel Clyne’s angled hit veered just wide of the far post. The Norwich keeper was finally pressed into meaningful service to parry from Sturridge 18 yards out who raced through after Coutinho robbed Russell Martin to spark a sharp turnover.
The unmarked Brazilian then headed over Milner’s tempting cross and City survived another scare in the 37th minute when Milner went for a one, two with Benteke before bursting into the box but the Belgian’s heavy pass rolled through to Ruddy. Milner then volleyed straight at Ruddy in the 42nd minute from Martin’s partial clearance with the Reds again threatening down the Norwich right. Dorrans swivelled away from Lucas to slide in Jerome in the right-hand channel, but Simon Mignolet parried as Howson closed in six yards out in a rare attacking thrust from the Canaries since the half-hour mark.
Liverpool made a change at the interval with Ings replacing Benteke.
Jerome escaped detection in the 47th minute to race through onto Howson’s pass but Mignolet smothered the cross before Redmond whacked a follow up over.
City’s hard work was undone in the 49th minute when Martin’s attempted pass into midfield was intercepted by Moreno who clipped a perfect ball into Ings who drew Ruddy before slotting on the angle of the six yard box. Tettey picked up his fifth booking of the season that rules him out of the midweek Capital One Cup tie against West Brom for hauling down Coutinho. Liverpool surged forward in the aftermath of the breakthrough goal with the Reds’ collectively pressing much higher and City’s backline creaking but Whittaker led a promising break-out before a rash sliced shot from the Scottish international. Norwich drew level in the 62nd minute with Martin making amends for his role in the Liverpool opener with a cool volleyed finish with the outside of his right foot after Mignolet fails to decisively punch clear Brady’s corner under pressure from Bassong. Mignolet denied Jarvis from close range after the West Ham loanee looked favourite to score at the near post before a swift counter forced Ruddy to tip over Moreno’s strike. Grabban replaced Jerome for the final quarter with Roberto Firmino on for Lucas and the Liverpool substitute brought a stop from Ruddy at his near post seconds after his arrival. Ruddy superbly foiled Coutinho in a battle of wills in the 79th minute after City were caught short from their own corner routine – the Norwich number one deflecting the midfielder’s sidefooted effort with his upper body. Ings then beat the ground in frustration after Adam Lallana had danced through the heart of Norwich’s central defence but Ruddy offered enough of a barrier to force Ings wide and over the dead ball line. Emre Can lashed wide in stoppage time with City dropping ever deeper to protect a battling point.
• Liverpool: Mignolet, Clyne, Skrtel, Sakho, Moreno, Lucas (Firmino 71), Can, Milner, Coutinho, Benteke (Ings 45), Sturridge (Lallana 63). Subs (not used): Bogdan, Lovren, Gomez, Ibe. • Booking: Milner (foul on Jerome, 3)
• Goal: Ings (48)
• Norwich City: Ruddy, Whittaker, Martin, Bassong, Brady, Redmond, Dorrans (O’Neil 85), Tettey, Jarvis, Howson, Jerome (Grabban 71). Subs (not used): Rudd, Mbokani, Hoolahan, Olsson, R Bennett. • Bookings: Tettey (foul on Coutinho, 53); Dorrans (foul on Lallana, 78) • Goal: Martin (61) • Added on time: 1 minute / 4 minutes
• Referee: Anthony Taylor (Cheshire) • Attendance: 44,072

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BBC

Daniel Sturridge made his first Liverpool appearance in over five months as Brendan Rodgers's side were held to a draw at home to Norwich. After a dull first half Danny Ings came on to score his first Liverpool goal. Russell Martin profited from Simon Mignolet's error on a corner to level, just before Sturridge came off. Mignolet denied Matt Jarvis with a fine reflex save, Philippe Coutinho wasted a one-on-one while Ings almost rounded John Ruddy to score a late winner. But Norwich held on for a deserved point as Liverpool's stuttering start to the season continued. Liverpool have now taken eight points from their first six games of the Premier League season, as have Norwich, who were promoted as play-off winners from the Championship last season. Did Sturridge and Benteke click? The combination only lasted 45 minutes, with Christian Benteke replaced by Ings at half-time because of a tight hamstring. Minor injury might explain the £32.5m summer signing's sluggish first-half performance, while Sturridge was making his first Liverpool appearance since 4 April after undergoing hip surgery in the United States. Sturridge's first contribution was a back-heeled flick to play in James Milner but there was nothing slick about the 26-year-old's combination with Benteke. Both strikers showed heavy touches as Liverpool laboured in front of goal, although Sturridge did force John Ruddy into a save with a powerful left-footed strike. Ings's impact was practically immediate, the former Burnley striker breaking the deadlock two minutes and 54 seconds after coming on. Having taken the lead, the home side's energy levels were far above those seen in the opening period, and Ings's running down the right wing almost fashioned an opening for Sturridge, making a dangerous run at the back post. But arguably the best bit of attacking play came from Martin, who showed brilliant composure and technique to flick beyond the stricken Mignolet. The Liverpool goalkeeper tried to clear a corner with a punch and could not make it back to his line to stop Martin's effort looping in - his third goal of the season. New dad Martin praises Norwich spirit Norwich captain Martin was late in joining up with his team-mates before the game because he returned to Norwich to be with his wife for the birth of their son. The baby was not expected to arrive before next week, and Martin, 29, had travelled with the squad as arranged. But after his wife went into labour he drove back to Norfolk on Saturday night, arriving at the hospital at four in the morning, and came back to rejoin his team-mates just over five hours later. "My son was born at half past nine this morning and I had to come up on the plane today, I missed the captain's meeting," he told BBC Sport. "I'm absolutely knackered now and need some sleep. We showed what we're about today. We've not got any superstars but we're a real team. "That comes from the manager and his team. They've given us confidence and belief and everyone has been thriving since they came in." Man of the match - Danny Ings The stats you need to know Daniel Sturridge made his first Premier League start in nearly six months (first since 22 March). Russell Martin is the top-scoring defender in the Premier League. Manchester City's Vincent Kompany and Joel Ward of Crystal Palace have both scored two. Martin has scored as many goals in his last five Premier League games as he did in his previous 86 appearances in the competition. Manager reaction Norwich manager Alex Neil: "I thought we played well, some teams sit in, which we had to do sometimes, but we offered a threat going forward too. Norwich 'bravery' pleases Alex Neil "The lads worked very hard and deserved something from the game. We're happy we have come away with a point. "I left it in Russell's hands about whether he was going to play or not. He is the captain of the club and would have said if wasn't right, for the sake of the team. "I think the adrenaline helped him through." Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers: "We had confidence after getting the first goal but we lost concentration on a corner. Rodgers 'disappointed' with draw "It was a poor goal from that aspect. Then we couldn't get that winning goal. We had a number of opportunities and that was the pleasing aspect of today. "It was important that we got some flow in our game and our intensity in the second half was much better. "But you have to look after the back door and at the corner we didn't do that." What's next for both teams? Liverpool host Carlisle in the third round of the League Cup on Wednesday night, before welcoming Aston Villa in the Premier League on Saturday. Norwich play West Brom at home in the League Cup on Wednesday, before travelling to West Ham in the Premier League on Saturday.

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Full time Match ends, Liverpool 1, Norwich City 1.

90:00+4:17Full time Second Half ends, Liverpool 1, Norwich City 1.

90:00+3:36 Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool).

90:00+3:36 Robbie Brady (Norwich City wins a free kick in the defensive half.

90:00+3:03 Attempt missed. Emre Can (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Adam Lallana following a corner.

90:00+3:02 Attempt missed. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left following a corner.

90:00+2:38 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Steven Whittaker.

90:00+1:50 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Adam Lallana.

90:00+0:16 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.

86:34 Foul by Danny Ings (Liverpool).

86:34 Sebastien Bassong (Norwich City wins a free kick in the defensive half.

84:50Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Norwich City. Gary O'Neil replaces Graham Dorrans.

80:02 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Graham Dorrans.

79:51 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

78:55 Offside, Liverpool. James Milner tries a through ball, but Roberto Firmino is caught offside.

78:36 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

78:36 Foul by Alexander Tettey (Norwich City.

78:01 Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by James Milner.

77:35Booking Graham Dorrans (Norwich City is shown the yellow card.

77:23 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by John Ruddy.

77:20 Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

76:37 Corner, Norwich City. Conceded by James Milner.

73:18 Danny Ings (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

73:18 Foul by Russell Martin (Norwich City.

72:02 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by John Ruddy.

72:00 Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Danny Ings.

71:04Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Roberto Firmino replaces Lucas Leiva.

70:58Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Norwich City. Lewis Grabban replaces Cameron Jerome.

67:16 Attempt blocked. Danny Ings (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Lucas Leiva.

65:40 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jonny Howson.

65:15 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by John Ruddy.

65:08 Attempt saved. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the top left corner. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

64:40 Attempt saved. Matthew Jarvis (Norwich City left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Nathan Redmond with a cross.

63:47 Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by James Milner.

62:06Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Adam Lallana replaces Daniel Sturridge.

60:57Goal scored Goal!Goal! Liverpool 1, Norwich City 1. Russell Martin (Norwich City right footed shot from the centre of the box to the top right corner following a corner.

60:18 Corner, Norwich City. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.

56:42 Attempt missed. Steven Whittaker (Norwich City right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Graham Dorrans.

54:45 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is close, but misses the top right corner. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge.

53:44 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.

52:29Booking Alexander Tettey (Norwich City is shown the yellow card.

52:20 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

52:20 Foul by Alexander Tettey (Norwich City.

51:58 Attempt blocked. Alexander Tettey (Norwich City left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Graham Dorrans.

50:10 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

50:10 Foul by Cameron Jerome (Norwich City.

49:40 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.

49:21 Attempt blocked. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Mamadou Sakho.

47:54Goal scored Goal!Goal! Liverpool 1, Norwich City 0. Danny Ings (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.

46:47 Attempt missed. Nathan Redmond (Norwich City right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Matthew Jarvis.

45:00 Second Half begins Liverpool 0, Norwich City 0.

45:00Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Danny Ings replaces Christian Benteke because of an injury.

45:00+1:08Half time First Half ends, Liverpool 0, Norwich City 0.

41:42 Attempt saved. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Daniel Sturridge with a headed pass.

40:44 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

40:42 Attempt blocked. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.

37:10 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

37:10 Foul by Cameron Jerome (Norwich City.

34:57 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Lucas Leiva.

33:16 Attempt saved. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Lucas Leiva with a through ball.

29:36 Attempt missed. Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left.

27:02 Attempt missed. Robbie Brady (Norwich City left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Jonny Howson.

25:21 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

25:21 Foul by Nathan Redmond (Norwich City.

22:36 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool.

22:36 Nathan Redmond (Norwich City wins a free kick in the defensive half.

19:55 Foul by Russell Martin (Norwich City.

19:55 Christian Benteke (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

19:34 Foul by Robbie Brady (Norwich City.

19:34 Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

17:37 Attempt blocked. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.

16:15 Foul by Alexander Tettey (Norwich City.

16:15 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

16:02 Foul by Alexander Tettey (Norwich City.

16:02 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

13:14 Foul by Sebastien Bassong (Norwich City.

13:14 Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

9:04 Attempt missed. Graham Dorrans (Norwich City right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Nathan Redmond.

8:00 Offside, Liverpool. Daniel Sturridge tries a through ball, but Christian Benteke is caught offside.

7:12 Offside, Liverpool. Alberto Moreno tries a through ball, but Christian Benteke is caught offside.

6:22 Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

6:22 Foul by Robbie Brady (Norwich City.

5:25 Offside, Norwich City. Nathan Redmond tries a through ball, but Matthew Jarvis is caught offside.

2:12Booking James Milner (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

1:53 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.

1:53 Cameron Jerome (Norwich City wins a free kick in the attacking half.

0:45 Foul by Alexander Tettey (Norwich City.

0:45 Christian Benteke (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

0:00 First Half begins.

0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.